Speech of Mr. Jaime Lusinchi.

Brother Betico Croes, unquestionable leader of Aruba's population, Brother First Minister of Curaçao, Brother First Minister of Grenada, Brothers at the head-table, Sisters and Brothers Delegates.
I was supposed to have spoken tomorrow, but the generosity of Betico Croes has asked me to do so today. I receive this honor, which I am personally unwitty of as attribute to my party, the first party of Venezuela, the foundation of our democracy. A party with an Americanistic feeling, with a humanistic feeling, a socialist party at the service of Venezuela and all humanity.
Tomorrow I have planned to say a few things, that I had not carefully thought out as yet, but I am called upon to express them today, so let us forge ahead.
I wanted to say in the first place that the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the M.E.P., the sister party of Aruba, occurs at a time of great interest for all this region of the Caribbean and Latin America as a whole. Our party, Acción Democrática, Venezuela, has always followed with a great deal of attention this historic development that has occured on this island, that is so closed to our coastline and our greatest traditions.
At the moment Aruba is a true parti of the concern of Latin America, since it follows the thoughts for civilization and democracy. As it is important that the sister parties of the region speak of these matters, because through a dialect, an open dialect of which looks through the future we can achieve a true exchange of information which will be for the service of our people.
We are here in Aruba, the land of liberty, a land for all years the sure refuge for Venezuelans who love freedom. Aruba, this hospitable people will receive a tribute from us on behalf of Venezuela through its leader of today, Betico Croes.
Aruba is the synthesis, a good land for a meeting and living together people. Today it has been personafied through Betico, an honest man, a clear cultured man with a germination, who knows what he wishes and knows where he is going. Aruba has a good leader in this man.
This is the first time that I have attended a meeting such as this, as Secretary General of Acción Democrática. It gives me great deal of pleasure and honour. Please, allow me to say and Enrique Tejera was stressing your interest in this matter, that we have just concluded an intense process of the exercise of internal democracy in our party. Hindered by mini obstacles, but highly positive at the end. Perhaps it may be to soon to say so and perhaps we shold not feel so optimistic, but all of us in our party, in Acción Democrática have a great faith in the possibility of winning the general elections of 1983. So I have come to share the tasks we had before us and I in particular have come to enrich my thoughts with the solution that you may present for the problems that gather us together. I have a serious concern, I believe that international situation through a very complicated period, a serious period which of course is in visible contrast to the situation which existed a few months ago. This may be due to the change of Government and policy that occured in the United States, but not exclusively to that reason. We have the situation of Afghanistan, of Poland, of Central America, and the Caribbean. Within the context of the great power pressures we cannot overlook these matters just because we wish to close our eyes. It is obvious of course that the Government of the United States has had an objective of re-arming itself to obtain a clear military superiority over the Soviet Union. This of course will lead to a weapons race, which in the worse cases, which might lead to a nuclear chaos or produce the oppression that the people wants the canons have presidence over butter and at this time the missiles over bread.
Objectively hands the change that has occured internationally should give to our activities and our deliberations a certain feeling of urgency since it seems to mee that I feel a danger that we might be set aside in our desire

to achieve authentical democratic solutions to de crisis in face. To insist the transformation of the northern policy is so late, that not only Reagan is not Carter, but Haig is not even Kissinger. One could fear in the process that we were into the oppression of liberal movements, democratic movements, and a certain kind of a return to the era of dictatorships of the fifties or the oppression of liberties in the name of revolution as we have seen. So it might be worthwile to study the new situation quite coldly in on not to become a victim of the ambitions of the fears or of the obstacles of a large blocks. A double measure of our interpretation should not be made for the privilege of self-determination of the peoples or for the valid concept of non-alignment. There is a danger of a nuclear chaos caused by errors of fear of the part of great powers. Perhaps it might be naive to overlook the reality that the instruments of international peace, starting with the United Nations, are living through difficult periods of inefficiency which have a reason as the last Second World War . Again and again we have seen the aggressive military sanction about attitude and without any protection for the weaker people. And we still have in the near east this tremendous situation of a war that has been suspended, one might say nearly. At this point I should pinpoint to the fact that I do not wish to exaggerate, nor be extreeming anyway, nor do I wish to analise or predict, but I must share the reflections of my friend Rómulo Bétancourt stating, that Republican Governments of the United States has not historically been a benefit for the democracy of Latin America. The truth is that the victory of the Republic of the United States has encouraged the conservatives and reactionary people of all over the world, the military dictatorships of Latin America are feeling justified, one might say, want to hear the high lofty sounds of the speeches of the Generals supported by the White House of the State Department, apparently in the name of realism, that we cannot share to confirm what I have to say. In the United States the new policy of President Reagan is still in a fase of definitions and of course as one of the apostles said, St. Paul: "We shall note them by their acts and thus we cannot feel to peaceful at this time". We are facing the situation of the the military intervention of the United States in El Salvador. We are not alone in Latin America, nor in the whole world is a general, not even in the United States per se. We are against all types of official armed intervention under cover of not withstanding the future of our countries, we are furthermore in favour of true self-determination of the peoples. We are also against the use by anyone of the two great blocks. Any intervention in our problems or difficulties in their struggle to become the most powerful of the world hegemonies . We must pay note to Afghanistan and we would say the same thing with North America and El Salvador. We believe in the rights of the people of Poland to solve their own problems without any foreign pressure, without interference of third parties. Our position in El Salvador is in favour of a political and democratic solution and we believe that all efforts should be made to start mediation which will lead to cease fire, to garranty political human right and the life of the Salvadorians themselves and the general conditions of Central America and the Caribbean, which affect each other, a military victory of either side will be nothing but a provisional solution of the problem. It will not realy be a solution, that is how we sincerely think about this. The imposition of military force would not be nothing but just a period of time which would give disaster results in the final. In some we should realize how urgent it is to set up a plan of action which will cover the stopping of any kind of military intervention in El Salvador. A cease-fire to stop the shedding

of blood and to create a climate competible with the solutions. A formation of a representative Government of all the democratic forces capable of guaranteeing rights and lives. My dear brothers I believe that we must also say that the time has come for the Latin American countries to speak with the voice the continent. This need is more urgent at this time when the large powers have gone to the Caribbean and the Central America to discuss their items of confrontation. Thus this makes it clearer than before that proud of our destiny is been played upon in other areas. True liberation means fundamentally the right to decide for ourselves. We, democratic socialists, cannot take advantage of any tribune to express our exposition thus I believe that we must say here that it becomes obvious that we in Latin America have different experiences to those of the European democratic socialists. Our enemies are the same, but here at least we have the great enemy, is under-development. All of us here we know it quite clearly. As was mentioned by our friend who unfortunately is not here, José Francisco Peña Gómez, from Santo Domingo, democratic socialism in Latin America keeps of the European socialism its respect for the diversitive opinions, devotion for freedom, public freedom , protection for small and medium anterprise and rejection of dictatorship in any form. I must say this time, as an introductory card, that the members of Acción Democrática are Latin American in feeling and above all we are Bolivarian in nature, we seek for the integration of our people, because we are convinced that this the path that will lead us to the goal we persue. To make of our people economically free countries and politically sovereign.

We feel that these integrating facts are being hindered by external forces from abroad the empire considered as a whole only for the effect of exploiting us better. And now President Reagan has been as rude as to refer globally to our countries as the backyard of the United States. Nevertheless apparently contradicting what he states as a concept at the time when our people are struggling to have their voices heard and to act jointly, at that time he sets aside the global concept and applies the bilateral criteria, which is the policy which apparently they plan to use. I would like to remind you at this time that when my party was in power in Venezuela, the promotion of integrating efforts was one of the main concerns of our foreign policies and we got to the neighbouring countries of the continent. One of these weapons was the Andian Pact with regard to Latin America and in a more general way we evaluated our oil not only as a wealth which conferred a pass upon us a privileged economic situation, but as a tool to be applied for the instuation of a new international economic order. We are the ones who believe that there is not only a division of classes in our countries, but also internationally among countries that exploit and those who are exploited. There is also this difference. Willy Brandt said: The divisory line between them and us comes between the north and the south.

In Acción Democrática we do not take an easy position of saying that 100% of our problems are imperialistic in nature. We also have a great deal of responsability in this and we must accept this responsability. Thus the division seems between the democratic parties when these are in danger has always been a factor that contributes to the establishment of dictatorships. We seek look on Spain and we look upon Chili. For example in Spain that the situation had to occur with the taking over of the courts of many democratic Spaniards after many many years of Francist dictatorship could realise that the savage situation had not been eliminated. They still had to gather their forces to prevent this tremendous danger that is as a sword upon their heads and which will affect us so much. In Chili the dispersion of the democratic

forces opened the path for a military coup and 8 years ago, even though it seems that it would not to understand that the more they delay in building their unity the greater freedom is delayed. We have not computed the decisive roll that has been played by the imperialistic forces in the radicalization of the revolutionary processes of the continent. While on th one hand the restauration of the tiranics of the right are strengthened we see supports for other people who are against the North American imperialists and do not allow their people to use their freedoms they have a right to. We insist, but it becomes essential to make both concepts competible: social, justice and personal freedom.

Brothers, I have tried to transfer to you these several different ideas. At this moment, when I am addressing you, I had this prepared for tomorrow, but as someone said before, the present is the past and the future and thus I wish to give you the general impressions of Acción Democrática regarding the political situation of Latin America within the context of the political situation of the world.

I believe that I must conclude this inaugural event has taken a great deal of time and there will be plenty of time to clarify concepts, but we establish our own concepts and that will be questioned if you so wish or that we exchange observations because we have a rational criteria and we have a unitary universal brotherly concept of political interpretation.

I repeat, I shall conclude and on doing so I must invoke that our deliberations be governed by the symbolism that I think out at this moment, but I shall take from the emblem of M.E.P. of Aruba. That beautiful, proud, seagull rising towards a sun of the people. That emblem of the M.E.P. is truly a symbol of the search our peoples carry forth. Proud, I say, free, flying in the wind just as Aruba has almost found its true solution, we hope that it symbol, it struggles and that persistance of the part of Betico, the conceptual clarity with which Betico has solved the problems of Aruba. The realism, the clarity, I repeat with which he has acted may all this preside our deliberations, so that we the Latin American, will finally find the last path, the path that was chosen for us by the Liberator more than a 150 years ago. A path that we should never have lost. Let us thus invoke the symbolism of this new people so close to our hearts, so deep in the affection of the Venezuelans. Aruba the land of sythesis, a good land for Latin Americans to meet, to deliberate about our problems and to find here in this beautiful land the solution. I hope that this may be so.

Tahnk You.